

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-9 (canceled).

103, P.C. 10. (original) An apparatus for treating a patient comprising:
a deployment mechanism having a surface;
at least one probe disposed on the deployment mechanism surface, said probe
extending between 25 microns to 1000 microns from the surface of the deployment mechanism;
and
material coated on the probe.

11. (original) An apparatus as described in claim 10, including at least a
second probe disposed on the surface of the deployment mechanism having material coating on
the second probe.

12. (original) An apparatus as described in claim 11, wherein the deployment
mechanism includes a balloon having a surface with the first and second probes disposed on the
surface of the balloon.

13. (original) An apparatus as described in claim 12, wherein each probe is
coated with gold or a material which DNA would adhere, and the material has DNA.

14. (original) An apparatus as described in claim 13, wherein the material is a
gene encoding for nitric oxide synthase or vascular endothelial growth factor.

15. (original) An apparatus as described in claim 12, wherein the material is
coated with a hydrogel or other biocompatible material which provides a protecting coating to
drugs or DNA.

16. (original) An apparatus as described in claim 15, wherein the material is prednisone or low molecular weight heparin or hirudin.

17. (original) An apparatus as described in claim 12, wherein each probe has a pointed tip.

18. (original) An apparatus as described in claim 17, wherein each probe is cone shaped.

19. (original) An apparatus as described in claim 12, wherein each probe extends radially from the surface of the balloon.

20. (original) An apparatus as described in claim 19, wherein the deployment mechanism includes a removable housing in which the probes are disposed when the housing is in a closed state, but is separated from the probes when the balloon is in an inflated state.

Claim 21 (canceled).

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? 22. (New) An apparatus as described in claim 10, wherein the probe is porous and includes microminiature reservoirs which hold the material. *obj. not shown drawings* *specie*

23. (New) An apparatus as described in claim 10, wherein the probe includes a lumen and including a reservoir holding the material, said reservoir connected to the lumen, said material in the reservoir injected from the reservoir through the lumen into the vessel wall when the deployment mechanism is in the activated state. *specie*

? 24. (New) An apparatus for treating a vessel of a patient comprising:
a deployment mechanism adapted to be placed in a vessel;
at least one probe disposed on the deployment mechanisms outer surface, said probe extending from the outer surface of the deployment mechanism, said probe being porous and having microminiature reservoirs; and *specie*

a drug, gene or therapeutic agent coated on the probe and disposed in the microminiature reservoirs wherein said drug, gene, or therapeutic agent is delivered into the vessel wall when the probe contacts the vessel wall.

✓ 25. (New) An apparatus for treating a vessel of a patient comprising:
a deployment mechanism adapted to be placed in a vessel.

26. (New) An apparatus for treating a patient comprising:
a deployment mechanism having a surface;
at least one probe disposed on the deployment mechanism surface, said probe extending between 25 microns to 1000 microns from the surface of the deployment mechanism;
and
material coated on a surface of the at least one probe and/or the surface of the deployment mechanism.

✓ 27. (New) An apparatus as described in claim 26, wherein the deployment mechanism includes a stent having a body, wherein the at least one probe is disposed on the body of the stent. *specis*

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Cond 28. (New) An apparatus as described in claim 27, wherein the surface(s) coated with material are porous.

29. (New) An apparatus as described in claim 28, wherein the porous surface(s) are anodized. *etched* ←

30. (New) An apparatus as described in claim 28, wherein the surface(s) are capable of retaining and releasing the material.

5942496. 31. (New) An apparatus as described in claim 27, wherein the material comprises a therapeutic agent having DNA, and the surface(s) coated with the therapeutic agent are coated with gold or a substance to which DNA would adhere.

32. (New) An apparatus as described in claim 31, wherein the material comprises a therapeutic agent having a gene encoding for nitric oxide synthase or vascular endothelial growth factor.

33. (New) An apparatus as described in claim 27, wherein the material is coated with a hydrogel or other biocompatible material which provides a protecting coating to drugs or DNA.

34. (New) An apparatus as described in claim 33, wherein the material comprises prednisone or low molecular weight heparin or hirudin.

35. (New) An apparatus as described in claim 27, wherein at least one of the at least one probe has a pointed tip.

36. (New) An apparatus as described in claim 35, wherein the pointed tipped probe(s) have a cone shape.

37. (New) An apparatus as described in claim 27, wherein the at least one probe extends radially from the surface of the stent.

38. (New) An apparatus as described in claim 37, wherein the deployment mechanism includes a balloon and the surface of the deployment mechanism comprises a surface of the balloon, and wherein the deployment mechanism includes a removable housing, wherein the at least one probe are disposed within the housing when the housing is in a closed state and wherein the housing is separated from the at least one probe when the balloon is in an inflated state.

39. (New) An apparatus as described in claim 26, wherein the majority of the at least one probe is porous and includes micro-miniature reservoirs which hold the material.

40. (New) An apparatus as described in claim 26, wherein the at least one probe includes a lumen and a reservoir for holding the material, said reservoir connected to the

lumen so that material held in the reservoir is releasable from the reservoir through the lumen when the deployment mechanism is in an activated state.

41. (New) An apparatus for treating a patient comprising:
a deployment mechanism including a balloon having a surface;
at least one probe disposed on the balloon surface, said probe extending between
25 microns to 1000 microns from the surface of the balloon; and
material coated on a surface of the at least one probe and/or the surface of the
balloon.

42. (New) An apparatus as described in claim 39, wherein the surface(s)
coated with material are porous.

43. (New) An apparatus as described in claim 42, wherein the porous
surface(s) are anodized.

44. (New) An apparatus as described in claim 42, wherein the surface(s) are
capable of retaining and releasing the material.

45. (New) An apparatus as described in claim 41, wherein the material
comprises a therapeutic agent having DNA, and the surface(s) coated with the therapeutic agent
are coated with gold or a substance to which DNA would adhere.

46. (New) An apparatus as described in claim 45, wherein the material
comprises a therapeutic agent having a gene encoding for nitric oxide synthase or vascular
endothelial growth factor.

47. (New) An apparatus as described in claim 41, wherein the material is
coated with a hydrogel or other biocompatible material which provides a protecting coating to
drugs or DNA.

48. (New) An apparatus as described in claim 47, wherein the material comprises prednisone or low molecular weight heparin or hirudin.

49. (New) An apparatus as described in claim 41, wherein at least one of the at least one probe has a pointed tip.

50. (New) An apparatus as described in claim 49, wherein the pointed tipped probe(s) have a cone shape.

51. (New) An apparatus as described in claim 41, wherein the at least one probe extends radially from the surface of the balloon.

52. (New) An apparatus as described in claim 51, wherein the deployment mechanism includes a removable housing, wherein the at least one probe are disposed within the housing when the housing is in a closed state and wherein the housing is separated from the at least one probe when the balloon is in an inflated state.

53. (New) An apparatus for treating a vessel of a patient comprising:
a deployment mechanism adapted to be placed in a vessel, the deployment mechanism having an outer surface;

at least one probe disposed on the outer surface, the at least one probe extending from the outer surface, the at least one probe being porous and having one or more micro-miniature reservoirs; and

a drug, gene or therapeutic agent coated on the at least one probe and disposed in the one or more micro-miniature reservoirs, wherein said drug, gene, or therapeutic agent is delivered into the vessel wall when the at least one probe contacts the vessel wall.

54. (New) An apparatus as described in claim 53, wherein the probes are made porous by anodization.

55. (New) An apparatus for treating a vessel of a patient comprising:

a deployment mechanism adapted to be placed in a vessel, the deployment mechanism having an outer surface;

at least one probe disposed on the outer surface, the at least one probe extending from the outer surface, the at least one probe having a porous surface and having one or more micro-miniature reservoirs; and

a drug, gene or therapeutic agent coated on the at least one probe and disposed in the one or more micro-miniature reservoirs wherein said drug, gene, or therapeutic agent is delivered into the vessel wall when the at least one probe contacts the vessel wall.
